

The feasibility of introducing an Insurance Scheme to protect the interest of retrenched workers is also being explored within the framework of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

Promotion of Agro and Rural Industries

† * 167. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes of his Ministry for promoting Agro and Rural Industries in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Jharkhand;

(b) the details of subsidies being extended by government under various head; and

(c) the steps taken to promote rural industries in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand in future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is implementing its programmes/schemes in all the States of the country including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. Under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of the KVIC, rural industries upto a project cost of Rs. 25 lakhs are being set up.

(b) Under the REGP 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and an additional 10% of the project cost above Rs. 10 lakhs upto Rs.25 lakhs is provided as margin money, which is in the form of a back ended subsidy. For weaker sections the margin money is higher at 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs.

(c) For the promotion of Village Industries in the country including Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, the REGP will continue to operate in the 10th Plan period on a higher scale.

Committee to Monitoring of IT and Software Industries

* 168. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have constituted any High Level committee to monitor and guide the software and I.T. industries in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.